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The Member suggested the appointment of more touring Veterinary officers, who would visit each village and advise the ryots in the matter of breeding and housing the cattle and also how to combat successfully the prevalence of epidemic diseases among them. The Member also pointed out the necessity of preventing the export of manure, bones and punnac from the State, as it was not a wise policy to lose the manure we had, when the soil was getting poorer and poorer every day.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Experimental Farms and Agricultural Schools for Nanjinad.

A committee to be appointed to select grazing grounds for cattle.

The useless tank beds in Nanjinad to be reserved as grazing grounds for the benefit of the neighbouring landowners.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) represented that the ryots of Nanjinad were suffering heavily on account of the increased expenditure on cultivation, and that the old method of agriculture might with advantage be altered under the advice of the Agricultural Director, so as to be less expensive and more profitable. There were different varieties of soil in Nanjinad, which required different modes of cultivation. The opening of Agricultural Farms and Schools, which would give practical lessons in different methods of cultivation, would prove a great boon to the ryots. The Member spoke also on the necessity of setting apart suitable sites for the grazing of cattle, as cattle were essential to the agriculturists, and he suggested that a Committee consisting of the Dewan Peishkar, Director of Agriculture, Forest Officer, Excise Circle Officer and representatives of the people, be appointed for the purpose. He pointed out also that there were many useless old tankbeds which might conveniently be used as grazing grounds for cattle.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

40. Reservation of Sirkar lands for the grazing of cattle

Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaran (Member, Pathanapuram taluk) stated that the fields in the Pathanapuram taluk were very uneven and in some places they were covered with slush 3 or 4 ft in depth at certain seasons of the year, while at at other times, they were very hard, offering great resistance to ploughing. Only very strong cattle could be used for ploughing in these parts. Their agriculture solely depended on cattle, and land owners possessing about 50 acres of fields required about 100 head of cattle to carry on cultivation. As inferior cattle were of no use to them, superior breeds at high prices had to be bought and maintained. Great difficulty was felt in grazing and stabling them. The Member therefore urged that Sirkar grazing grounds should be reserved in each *pakuthi* of the taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

41. (1) The dates of the opening and closing of the Kodayar channels should be the 15th

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) represented that the present practice of opening and

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SUBJECTS.

Medam and the 30th Makaram respectively.

(2) The creation of a Board for the distribution of water, with the Dewan Peishkar as the President and the Director of Agriculture, the Irrigation Sub-Division Officer, the Tahsildar and the leading ryots as Members.

closing the Kodayar channels on the 15th Vykasi and 30th Thye respectively, was quite unsuitable for cultivation in Nanjinad, so much so that in 1086 more than 3,000 acres of fields failed for want of water in time. The Kanni crop had to be delayed on account of this arrangement, with the result that the produce became poor owing to the untimely cultivation. The Member said that it was an admitted fact that 302 days were required for raising two crops of *varisumundan*, the suitable seed for Nanjinad. According to the present arrangement, a seed which might be harvested in 60 days had to be adopted; but experience showed that this was not profitable.

Dewan.—In fixing the dates for opening and closing the channels, we proceeded upon the ground that the channels *had* to be closed for 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ months for repairs; otherwise the channels would seriously suffer.

The Member continued and said that difficulties were experienced also in getting water from the tanks whenever required, for, the P. W. D. officers entrusted with the distribution of water, were not accessible at night, and he suggested that this duty of distributing water from the tanks might be entrusted to the ryots of the place. In referring to the Irrigation Committee, the Member said that the Committee did not carry out the intention of the Government. The opinions of the representatives of the people were not respected by the Committee. All the representatives of the people, he also being one of them, recommended that the channels should be opened on the 15th Medam. He also pointed out that no copy of the report of the Committee had been sent to him.

At this stage, the Assembly adjourned, at 4. P. M., to attend the Sri Mulam Sports.

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